[22nd July 1953

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Do the Government deny that three tractors were carried from Vijayavada to Madras recently? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I have already stated that merely making an allegation is of no use. I would like to have definite information about the allegations or suspicions and then I will make enquiries."

Purchase of Comer Chassis.

* 843-B *Q.*—SRI M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have placed orders through the South India Automotive Corporation, Limited, to buy Comer Chassis; and

(*b*) if so, for how many and at what cost?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Orders were placed for the supply of 35 chassis at a cost not exceeding Rs. 25,379 per chassis for delivery at Madras. As a result of the Government of India's decision to reduce import duty on motor vehicles, the suppliers have subsequently agreed to allow a reduction of Rs. 2,340 in the price of each chassis imported after the reduction in import duty."

SRI M. VEERABHADRAM :—" Who are the directors of this concern? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice of a separate question."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Has this South India Automotive Corporation ever been dealing in the sale of chassis and may I know if Mr. Muthiah Chettiar, Raja of Chettinad, has anything to do with this company? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think the question becomes personal."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I will answer the first part of the question. This company is dealing in the Buick group of vehicles—Comer, Hillman and other products of the Buick group."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" With regard to the remark which has just been made by the Hon. Speaker, I think a Member is entitled to know whether any sitting Member of this House has got any connexion with any particular firm with which the Government have dealings. I do not think it can be classed merely as a personal question. I would like to say that the Hon. Minister might answer the question."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am not aware of any such connexion. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will make enquiries and answer."